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## Air Pollution

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## In The Nation: The Difficult Case of the C.I.A.

By ARTHUR KROCK

WASHINGTON, May 18—Interwoven in the proposal to include members of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate group which checks the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency is the native American distaste for a network of espionage. The responsibility assigned to the C.I.A. for protecting the national security requires matching and frustrating the covert and often criminal activities of foreign agents to undermine this security. And these are practices, generated by the world power struggle between the Communist and democratic systems, that Americans have been taught to associate with "evil" foreign regimes.

But, though it is generally accepted that the subversive designs and tactics of world Communism compelled a responsible American Government to establish the counterforce embodied in the C.I.A., a feeling has increasingly developed that the agency should be exposed to more critical and broader surveillance. The immediate product of this feeling is the proposal favored by a majority of the members of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

That presents the Senate with an unusually difficult choice. The effectiveness of the C.I.A., also the lives of its agents in certain foreign countries, depend on the complete secrecy of their activities. These agents include nationals of the foreign countries as well as Americans working under a "cover" which disguises what they actually are doing there. Not only in Washington, but particularly here, experience has shown that the larger the number entrusted with secrets, the larger the "leaks" of those secrets into the public domain.

## Information Leaks

In opposing the addition of three Foreign Relations committeemen to the seven from Armed Services and Appropriations, Senator Russell of Georgia, chairman of the Seven, made this general point. But Senator Lausche of Ohio added an observation which Russell's colleagues suspect to be the real basis of his objection. The Foreign Relations Committee, said Lausche (he is a member of it), "has also distinguished itself for the frequency of leaks that come out of its hearings" in executive session. Not one has ever come from the Seven.

Senator Fulbright and his

committee majority want equal representation on the Russell group with Armed Services and Appropriations on the ground that the C.I.A. plays an important role in the "making" of foreign policy, in which the Senate is the President's constitutional junior partner and the Fulbright committee is its deputy. This ground is substantial, but only to a degree. If the C.I.A. confines itself to its appointed functions—the gathering and weighting of intelligence in the field of international activities—then it "makes" foreign policy only in the sense that this is shaped, as necessarily it is, by international events and the designs of other nations. And the Russell group vigorously asserts that the C.I.A. strictly limits itself to these functions.

This affirmation supports assurances given publicly by former Directors Dulles and McConc several times in recent years. Moreover, as has been pointed out in behalf of the Russell committee, having given clearance for access to secret intelligence reports to Senators outside the group whose official responsibilities entitled them to it, the same would be readily available to Chairman Fulbright for the asking.

Another consideration is the principle of C.I.A. surveillance. It is a fact that the agency is always subject to a great deal of reports its activities in fact to the President, and through him to the National Security Council. The President has assigned close scrutiny of C.I.A. operations to a Congressional group headed by Clark Clifford and the group must submit its requests for finances and the purposes for which these will be expended to subcommittees in both branches of Congress.

## The Senate's Dilemma

Thus a hard choice is presented to the Senate by the Foreign Relations Committee proposal. By approval, it increases the incidence of that comes with any enlargement of the recipient of access. By approval, the Senate also risk that which saps creative energy and initiative. By rejecting the proposal, the Senate would continue to exclude its foreign affairs deputy from official access to the intelligence which serves as an important guide in the making of foreign policy. The Senate usually solves such a dilemma by compromise.

## Observer: How's the Wife and Pass the Sugar

By RUSSELL BAKER

WASHINGTON, May 18—The next big development in labor-saving devices will almost certainly be the automatic tongue. When fully developed, it will take over as much as 95 per cent of all the conversation that now has to be ground out laboriously, syllable by syllable, by man.

Basically, the automatic tongue is a talking computer small enough to fit in a man's lapel button or a woman's locket. Programming it is not difficult. Science has discovered that nearly 95 per cent of all American conversation is conducted in only 53 phrases and sentences.

## No Thought Required

Knowing the relative frequency with which each phrase or sentence occurs at each hour of the day, it is child's play to time the computer so that it will produce an entire conversation suitable to the occasion without requiring the owner to say a word.

Scientists have discovered, for example, that at breakfast the conversation lines most frequently used by men are: "Terrible," "Some weather, isn't it?" "Fine," "Where is the paper?" "Pass the sugar" and "See you tonight."

By feeding these phrases into the computer, they can eliminate all breakfast conversational toil. The automatic tongue is timed to start talking at 7:02 A.M., an instant after the wife has used the most common breakfast sentence in America; to wit, "How did you sleep?"

"Terrible," the computer replies. "Some weather, isn't it?" The conversation then proceeds automatically as follows:

Wife: Are the eggs all right?  
Computer: Fine. Where is the paper?

Wife: What a day I've got ahead of me.

Computer: Pass the sugar.

Wife: Are you going to leave without kissing me good-by?

Computer: See you tonight.

At 9:32 A.M. the husband can statistically expect to run into a man whose name he has forgotten. Nowadays, this is a situation fraught with drudgery, but when the automatic tongue is perfected it will present no problem at all.

The husband will merely have to stand at precisely 9:32 A.M., face the gentleman of forgotten name and, while concentrating on Charles de Gaulle or whatever he feels like concentrating upon, let the automatic tongue do the work. "Hello there!" the computer will roar.

Reply of man of forgotten name: What d'ya say?

Computer: Not much. How's it going?

Forgotten Name: Can't complain, you're looking great.

Computer: Never felt better. How's the wife?

Forgotten Name: Swell. World treating you okay?

Computer: Like a million.

Forgotten Name: Keep punching, buddy.

Computer: Let's have lunch sometime.

Forgotten Name: Love to.

Computer: I'll give you a call.

Forgotten Name: You bet.

Computer: Great! See you soon.

## Multi-Purpose Sentences

It will be noted that most of the sentences programed for the two preceding conversations are equally suitable for lunch, cocktails, visiting relatives, chance encounters in elevators, dinner and most telephone transactions.

For intellectual variety, the automatic tongue also includes the seven American sentences most frequently used to reveal personal emotion and sensitivity. These are: "Do you accept credit cards?" "Of course I still love you." "You want to know why you can't go out and I'm going to tell you why you can't

go out: you can't go out because you're just a child and because I tell you you can't go out." "Did you have a good day?" "Did you see Ed Sullivan Sunday night?" "I'm dying," and "I don't know what's wrong with these young people today."

In developmental tests of the automatic tongue, its designers have run into only one serious bug. After three or four days of flawless performance, the computer unaccountably started inserting inappropriate phrases at embarrassing moments. One device, while dealing with the man of the forgotten name, acquired the ugly habit of replying to "You're looking great!" with "Do you accept credit cards?"

## Foot in Mouth

Another humiliated its owner during a cocktail conversation with his employer's wife by answering her question, "How's your wife?" with a brusquely snarled "Pass the sugar."

The explanation seems to be that machines quickly become bored to desperation with talking as humans do and try to inject life into human contact. Until this tendency can be ironed out, the automatic tongue will not outstrip color TV in the stock market.